

MINUTES
Idaho Wolf Depredation Control Board
January 10, 2019

Celia Gould, Idaho State Department of Agriculture, called the meeting to order 10 a.m. Those in attendance were: Carl Rey, Board member; Ed Schriever, Idaho Fish and Game; Toby Boudreau, Idaho Fish and Game; Brian Oakey, ISDA; Kelly Nielsen, ISDA; Dallas Burkhalter, OAG - ISDA; Katy DeVries, DAG – ISDA; and Janis Perry, ISDA. Telephone participants were: Richard Savage, Board member and Tony McDermott, Board member.

Guests attending were Pam Williams, concerned citizen; Rusty Kramer, Idaho Trappers Association; Larry Fry, Idaho Sportsmen’s Alliance; and Delon Lee, Idaho Farm Bureau.

Celia Gould asked for approval of the minutes. Carl Rey called the Board’s attention to the action item on page three that “staff work to propose a draft motion for the next meeting to meet the intent of Carl’s motion.” He also asked if the bill that Toby Boudreau had referenced had been paid. Toby indicated that it had been. Carl moved that the minutes of the November 29, 2018 meeting be approved. Tony McDermott seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Toby Boudreau stated that he and Brian Oakey had met with Todd Grimm of Wildlife Services to come up with a plan to increase detail on invoices so that the Board will have more detail. Kelly Nielsen commented that he and Brian discussed a secondary plan to have all invoices and supporting documentation included in meeting packets so that the Board will have secondary approval and will provide what the auditors require. Carl Rey asked if they were able to develop methodology to distinguish investigation versus control expenses. Ed Schriever responded that Fish and Game is able to provide that level of detail, but Wildlife Services’ billing is more limited. He indicated that he thought this process will allow the Board to talk about each bill during a meeting.

Celia Gould asked for public comments. Larry Fry, President of Idaho Sportsmen’s Alliance, stated that “our Board of Directors and thousands of members statewide applaud your work in the management of dispersal of funds for wolf depredation...ISA recognizes the need for this board and its continuance.”

Pam Williams appreciated that her comment regarding more detail to put numbers given into context was in the minutes. She further explained that she would like to know how many cattle killed out of how many in the area. Celia Gould responded that the Wolf Board does not have those statistics, but they may be available from National Ag Statistics. Pam asked if the Board would know if the action happened on public land versus private. Richard Savage commented that Todd Grimm usually has a chart of where depredations occur.

Rusty Kramer, Idaho Trappers Association, expressed his support of the Board. He is encouraged by the new proposal from Fish and Game for opening more of the state to trapping of wolves, which would be discussed at the March Fish and Game Commission meeting in Boise.

Kelly Nielsen then reviewed the FY2019 Fiscal Report through December 31, 2018. He commented that adding the fourth subsection had caused the font size to be smaller. He will have the fourth sub section

on a separate page from now on. He reminded the Board that statute requires four sub-sections be all tracked separately, although they are related. The beginning cash balance was \$607,834. Revenue collected so far is \$41,695 plus \$10,271 in interest and \$110,000 from fish and game and \$400,000 from the general fund. Expenses paid so far are \$392,966 leaving a current cash balance of \$777,103. He expects to pay invoices for the second quarter soon. The trend is that expenses are on an uphill curve and its eating into the cash balance.

Kelly Nielsen explained that the board had requested \$400,000 for FY20. He said that the recommendation from Governor Little is for \$200,000 from the general fund for the Wolf Board. Kelly indicated that the Board would have sufficient funds to meet expenses because of the cash balance. He did note that revenue collections are down, probably due to the brand calendar of collections.

Celia Gould indicated that the department has been scrambling since the budget presentations are scheduled for next Wednesday, January 16. She commented that Sam Eaton will be the Board's new contact in the governor's office and she will be meeting with him tomorrow. We should add him to Wolf board contacts. Carl Rey explained that his presentation to the JFAC committee will be similar to the last two years, but he did not feel he needed to go over it during the meeting. He added that with respect to Kelly's report, he felt that the \$200,000 was academic, but the re-authorization of the Board was more important. Ms. Gould agreed whole heartedly and suggested that the recommended money is a strong signal that the new governor supports the Board. She suggested that Mr. Eaton will provide some direction as to who is bringing the legislation eliminating the sunset clause forward.

Richard Savage stated that he felt the removal of the sunset was important. He suggested that the Board provide the governor and the legislature information concerning the growth of the Board. He is concerned that we not get two years down the road and then have to ask for \$500,000 or \$600,000, since we have grown substantially and are up dramatically from the beginning.

Ed Schriever responded that he appreciated that sentiment and feels that separating the appropriating from the policy is important. He felt that the governor has been able to see the cash balance, but in the recent year the Board has used all its funding. The current spending could exceed the balance.

Richard Savage commented that graphs could give a lot of information for educating JFAC since the mechanisms are complicated. Ed Schriever stated that we need to explain that the fish and game revenue was never intended to \$110,000, but "up to" \$110,000. He feels that the perception among some legislators is that this is a guaranteed amount. Carl indicated that he will be prepared to answer such a question. Kelly Nielsen offered to put together some line graphs based on the financial information and also show the average revenue over the last four years. Celia Gould asked that the graphs be sent to all Board members. Carl asked what staff would be helping him prepare for his presentation. Celia Gould stated that Kelly and Chanel Tewalt would.

Ed Schriever stated that Fish and Game had learned yesterday that they were to present to their germane committee before JFAC and wondered if that was true of the Wolf Board. Celia Gould suggested that a call would be needed to determine the answer and what germane committee applied to the Board. Carl Rey indicated he would make himself available if another presentation was necessary.

Tony McDermott thanked Ed and Rusty for moving in the right direction to expand wolf trapping in the state. He quoted numbers from the 2002 and 2008 plans regarding wolf numbers. His conclusion is that the IDFG minimum estimate for wolves (actually countable) in the state is 673 to 856 and that we need to reduce the wolf population by 50% and manage for 300-400 wolves in Idaho.

Carl Rey asked if Wildlife Services is closed with the federal shut-down. Celia Gould stated it is. However, she suggested that the Board wait for a month or so to see what happens with the shut-down.

Ed Schriever felt compelled to explain that Fish and Game has met with sportsmen regarding increasing trapping and hunting of wolves, elk rules, and deer rules as part of the biennial review all big game rules. Fish and Game is developing proposals that will go back to the public for input. Decisions will be made at the March 23-24 meetings of the Fish and Game Commission.

Richard Savage asked as we look at reauthorization of the Board, what is Plan B. He suggested considering other issues that we might want to change. Celia Gould stated that she was concerned about taking on too much. Carl Rey agreed. Ed Schriever stated regarding Plan B what happens if Wildlife Services is shut down or their helicopter is not available, the Board can contract with Fish and Game. Richard Savage asked if IDFG owned a helicopter. Ed stated that IDFG always contract for helicopters and fixed wing aircraft. Toby Boudreau responded that IDFG has six contractors from as far away as Colorado to conduct ground tracking and collaring work. Ed indicated that often it was a matter of scheduling with complicating factors of weather. Richard Savage appreciated being able to tell ranchers that we are not out of business with Wildlife Services shut down. Ed cautioned to not set expectations that Fish and Game can do all Wildlife Services has done.

Tony McDermott commented that he would need an airline ticket to attend the JFAC presentation next week. Janis Perry will work with him and Richard Savage on airfare.

Celia Gould adjourned the meeting at 11:03 am.